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Stitch, Dissolve, Distort with Machine Embroidery

by Valerie Campbell-Harding and Maggie Grey

Learn new and exciting techniques to dissolve, melt, and distort fabric, both before and after stitching with **STITCH, DISSOLVE, DISTORT WITH MACHINE EMBROIDERY** (Interweave Press, May 2007, \$27.95), an in-depth look at innovative materials and intriguing design options available to mixed-media artists. Authors Valerie Campbell-Harding and Maggie Grey examine the multitude of ways fabrics can be altered using both traditional techniques and innovative ideas, complete with clear photos, easy-to-follow steps, design tips, and diagrams. Design samples from the authors plus a selection from fellow textile artists complete this informative and inspirational guide.

The book is broken down into three themes that build upon each other. “Stitch” looks at the diversity of work that can be produced simply by using a sewing machine and covers a variety of techniques including free-machining, painted stitches, achieving tone and texture with the use of varying weights of thread, and using pintucks. Samples of the artists’ work are shown throughout with descriptions and suggestions for how to achieve similar effects.

“Dissolve” works with water-soluble materials, including films, fabrics, and papers that dissolve readily in water, leaving the stitching behind. Topics include materials and methods, wash-away film and fabric, using motifs with water-soluble film, sticky soluble stabilizers, and water soluble paper. The artists even present pieces that combine media, such as handmade paper with water-soluble film, to achieve interesting effects.

“Distort” describes how to use methods, materials, and equipment to change the nature of fabric or embroidery, some traditional and others that use new techniques. Readers will learn how to distress, cut, punch, or remove threads from base fabric, before or after stitching. Techniques for

melting fabric by applying heat tools is discussed, as well as shaping fabric with the use of hardening agents, wires, and meshes.

STITCH, DISSOLVE, DISTORT WITH MACHINE EMBROIDERY examines some of the new and exciting methods and materials for embroiderers to use on fabric but keeps the focus on the most important element—the stitching.

**STITCH, DISSOLVE, DISTORT WITH MACHINE EMBROIDERY
by Valerie Campbell-Harding and Maggie Grey**

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100 color photographs

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About the authors:

Maggie Grey is a highly experienced teacher of embroidery who exhibits her work and teaches worldwide. A former editor of *The World of Embroidery*, she is the coauthor of several books, including *Paper, Metal & Stitch*. Maggie edits the innovative and influential Web magazine *Workshop on the Web* (www.workshopontheweb.com). She lives in England.

Valerie Campbell-Harding was a legend of the textile world. Over several decades, she has written books, many best sellers, including *Edges and Finishes in Machine Embroidery*.

About Interweave Press LLC:

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Linda Ligon founded the company in the 1970s when she began publishing *Handwoven* and *Spin-Off* magazines. Since then, the company has grown to employ more than 100 people throughout the country, with corporate headquarters located in Loveland, Colo. For more information on Interweave Press, please visit www.interweave.com or call (970) 669-7672.